

## Networking Conversation Starters

### Employer Specific

- How did you get in the door at X company?
- What is it like to interview at X company?
- What do recruiters like to see on resumes?
- Do you have any tips or tricks to making it to the interview stage?
- What experiences help a candidate stand out in the application process for X company?
- What don't most people know about work at X company?
- What is your advice for people trying to get in the door at X company?

### Career Exploration by Job Type or Industry

- Can you tell me about what you do?
- What is your day-to-day work like?
- What are the entry level job titles and functions in your line of work?
- How does the entry level work change as you gain more experience and advance in your career?
- What are the characteristics or skills are needed in your job or industry in order to be successful?
- What are the pros and cons of big companies vs. start ups?

### Career Exploration by Personal Experience

- I see you're in X field, how did you get into that?
- Did you always know you wanted to do X?
- Did you try anything different before finding X?
- What advice would you give to someone considering a career in X?
- How did you decide what to do after finishing your degree at BU?
- What was the biggest fork in the road in your career?
- Was there at any time a single decision that you made that helped accelerate your career?
- Were there mistakes you made in your career along the way? What do you know now that you wish you knew then?
- What about your job do you enjoy most? What does your best day or week look like?

### Grad School

- I'm considering grad school options, what helped you decide if wanted to pursue a graduate degree?
- How did you decide going/not going to grad school was right for you?
- How did your grad school experience help shape your professional journey?
- I'm torn between pursuing a grad degree immediately after undergrad, or waiting a few years. How did you make that decision?
- How can I make the most of gap years?
- How did you manage the grad school application process and determine which schools were right for you?

## More Conversation Starters

### Time at BU

- What advice do you wish you had when you were in college?
- When you think back to who you were during your time at BU and what you studied – would your younger self be surprised to see what you're doing for work now? Why or why not?
- Was there a moment during your time at BU where you really figured out what you wanted to do, or did you have that realization later?
- What experiences at BU were most impactful in shaping your career? Class, research, internships?
- How did you find opportunities when you were in school?
- Were you involved in groups and clubs during your time at BU? How did that experience support your professional journey?

### Job Search

- How did you find your first job? Your current job?
- What resources have you used when searching for jobs? Which ones worked best for you?
- Have you ever been unemployed for any length of time? How did you manage that?
- Have you relocated for any jobs? What is helpful in searching for jobs in different cities?
- What was the economy like during your job searches? What advice do you have for someone navigating the current situation?

### Interviewing

- How do you personally prepare for interviews? What has worked well for you, what hasn't?
- What do you recommend students do to prepare for interviews?
- Do you interview people in your current role? What is memorable about the best interviews? What is memorable about the worst interviews?

### Professional Development

- How do you stay sharp and keep up with needed skills and trends for your position/industry? Where do you look to learn about coming changes?
- Are you a member of any professional organizations?
- What are your engineering interests outside of your current position?
- What do you think your next step is in your career?